

From: Chris Cassell
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 8:59pm
Subject: Less than a slap on the wrist for MS

Sirs,

I was most disappointed in the DOJ's decision to ignore the testimony provided during the hearings which lead to Judge Penfield's decision. Penfield was reprimanded for his comments after the trial, not his decisions. These were upheld by a higher court.

This DOJ settlement will have no effect on Microsoft's behavior. Microsoft has a history of ignoring settlements. They will ignore this one as well, because it has no teeth. MS was found to be violating several anti-trust laws. To let MS off with considerably less than a slap on the wrist, sends the message back to MS that such activities are acceptable corporate behavior.

Several facts were brought to light during the hearings:

Bill Gates lied to the Court and was caught at it.

The demonstrations about the ease of removing Explorer were falsified.

It was proven that Microsoft intentionally modified its operating system to render competing browsers at a disadvantage.

MS incorporated copyrighted concepts from competitors without permission or payment.

Essentially, the DOJ has told MS that the software and operating system playing field is theirs and they can defend it with whatever means they can bring to bear. Without a substantial penalty for their paranoid and invidious behavior, they will not play fairly. This disregard for fair competition has already been demonstrated in many of the features incorporated into the new Windows XP operating system.

Sincerely,

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